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CLAIMS

2	We c	claim:	
3	1.	A con	nmunications system for communicating between an information provider and a
4		user,	comprising:
5		(A)	a client computer system, wherein said client computer system is a digital
6			computer;
7		(B)	a local area network connected to said client computer system;
8		(C)	a server computer connected to said local area network to provide a means of
9			communicating between said local area network and one or more external
10			communication channels,
11		(D)	a satellite communication channel connected to said server computer by a radio
12			frequency link; and
13		(E)	an information provider connected to one or more external communication
14			channels for the purpose of providing information to one or more said client
15			computer systems.
16	2.	A cor	nmunication system for communicating between an information provider and a user
17		as reci	ted in claim 1, wherein said client computer system is a personal computer.
18	3.	A con	nmunication system for communicating between an information provider and a user
19		as reci	ted in claim 1, wherein said client computer system is a Macintosh computer.
20	4.	A con	nmunication system for communicating between an information provider and a user
21		as reci	ted in claim 1, wherein said client computer system is a computer workstation.
22	5.	A com	nmunication system for communicating between an information provider and a user

- 1 as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system is a mini computer. 6. A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user 2 as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system is a mainframe computer. 3 7. A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user 4 as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system is a special purpose digital 5 computer. 6 A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user. 7 8. 8 as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system has a Windows operating 9 system. A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user. 10 9. as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system has a Windows 95 operating 11 12 system. A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user, 13 10. as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system has a Windows NT operating 14 15 system.
- 11. A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user,
 17 as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system has a Macintosh operating
 18 system.
- 12. A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user, 20 as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system has a Unix operating system.
- 21 13. A communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user, 22 as recited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system has a Linux operating system.

1	14.	communication system for communicating between an information provider and a user,
2		as tecited in claim 1, wherein said client computer system has an OS/2 operating system.
3	15.	A communications system for communicating between an information provider and a
4		user, as recited in claim 1, wherein said local area network is a IPX network.
5	16.	A communications system for communicating between an information provider and a
6		user, as recited in claim 1, wherein said local area network is a IP network.
7	17.	A communications system for communicating between an information provider and a
8		user, as recited in claim, wherein said information provider is an internet service
9		provider.
10	18.	A communications system for communicating between an information provider and a
11		user, as recited in claim 1, wherein said information provider is a software distributor.
12	19.	A communications system for communicating between an information provider and a
13		user, as recited in claim 1, further comprising: a modem electrically connected to said
14		server computer to transmit data electronically to a telephone land line.
15	20.	A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider
16		and a user, comprising:
17		(A) receiving data from said information service provider by a satellite
18		communications channel; and
19		(B) conveying said received data across a local area network to one or more digital
20		computer systems.
21	21.	A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider
22		and a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising:

1		(c) generating a request from said one or more digital computer systems to said
2		information service provider.
3	22.	A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider
4		and a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising:
5		(D) conveying said generated request to said information service provide by a land
6		line communication channel.
7	23.	A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider
8		and a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising:
9		(D) conveying said generated request to said information service provide by a satellite
10		communication channel.
11	24.	A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider
12		and a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising:
13		(D) conveying said generated reguest to said information service provide by a wireless
14		communication channel.
15	25.	A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider
16		and a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising:
17		(D) conveying said generated request to said information service provide by a routed
18		communication channel.
19	26.	A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider an
20		a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising: receiving data from said satellite
21		communications channel into computer hardware memory.
22	27.	A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider an

1		a user, as recriced in chain 20, further comprising, checking to determine it said received
2		data has an IP format.
3	28.	A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider
4		and a user, as recited in claim 20, further comprising: checking to determine if said
5		received data has a packetized format.
6	29.	A process for asymmetrically communicating between an information service provider
7		and a user, as recited in claim 20, wherein said one or more digital computer systems are
8		connected electrically by a local area network.
9	30.	A method for controlling the transfer of information between an information service
10		provider and a user, comprising:
11		(A) receiving data from said information service, wherein said received data has a
12		protocol identifier;
13		(B) determining the protocol of said received data; and
14		(C) delivering said data according to said protocol of said received data to a client
15		computer.
16	31.	A method for controlling the transfer of information between an information service
17		provider and a user, as recited in claim 30, further comprising:
18		(D) receiving a return packet of data from said client computer.
19	32.	A method for controlling the transfer of information between an information service
20		provider and a user, as recited in claim 31, further comprising:
21		(E) delivering said returned packet of data from said client computer to said
22		information service provider.

1	33.	A computer program to manage communications between an information service
2		provider and a user, comprising:
3		(A) a routine for receiving information from said information service;
4		(B) a routine for testing said received information to determine the source of said
5		information;
6		(C) a routine for delivering said received information to a digital computer system.
7	34.	A computer program to manage communications between an information service
8		provider and a user, as recited in claim 33, further comprising: a routine for determining
9		an age value for said received information.
10	35.	A computer program to manage dommunications between an information service
11		provider and a user, as recited in claim 33, further comprising: a routine for replacing old
12		received information with newer received information.
13	36.	A system for managing the communications between an information service provider and
14		a user, comprising:
15		(A) a digital computer system connected to a local area network;
16	-	B) a first interface device for communicating between said local area network and a
17		satellite communication channel;
18		C) a first connection between said satellite communication channel and a source of
19		information;
20		D) a second connection between said land line communication channel and a source
21		of information; and
22		E) a means for controlling the flow of information between said digital computer

1		system and said source of information.
2	37.	A system for managing the communications between an information service provider and
3		a user, as recited in claim 36 further comprising a second interface device for
4		communicating between said local area network and a land line.
5	38.	A system for managing the communications between an information service provider and
6		a user, as recited in claim 36 further comprising a second interface device for
7		communicating between said local area network and a wireless channel.
8	39.	A system for managing the communications between an information service provider and
9		a user, as recited in claim 36 further comprising a second interface device for
10		communicating with said local area network to a satellite.
11	40.	A system for managing the communications between an information service provider and
12		a user, as recited in claim 36 further comprising a second interface device for
13		communicating with said local area network to a routed channel.